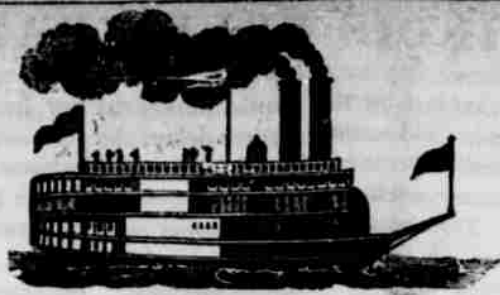


THE ILLINOIS FREE TRADER.



Our Country, her Commerce, and her Free Institutions.

VOLUME I.

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1840.

NUMBER 11.

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— Canal Street, nearly opposite the Mansion House.

TERMS:

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Of every description, executed in the neatest manner, at the usual prices.

Ottawa is the seat of justice of La Salle county; it is situated at the junction of the Fox river with the Illinois, 290 miles, by water, from Saint Louis, and mid-way between Chicago and Peoria. The population of Ottawa is about one thousand.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Illinois Free Trader.

To the Electors of La Salle county.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—It was not my intention of appearing before you as a candidate for re-election, in a more public manner than the announcement of my name in the "ILLINOIS FREE TRADER." I had decided upon this course from the fact, that nearly every voter of the county was acquainted with me, and with many of whom I had transacted business; and believing as I did, that you would exercise the right of suffrage in favor of that candidate for Sheriff, whom you believed most worthy of your support; but, having received letters from different parts of the county, informing me that emissaries (two from Ottawa) were busily engaged in circulating all manner of evil report against me, and as it is impossible for me to contradict those reports successfully, in person, I deem it expedient to address you in this public manner.

In proof of the assertion that *Emissaries were abroad*, I lay before you the following letter from Troy Grove Precinct:—

TROY GROVE, July 25, 1840.
Wm. Reddick, Esq.

Sir, we understand that some serious charges are alleged against you, with respect to some of your official acts as Sheriff, in the affair of W. T. S. Lavinia, and also the manner in which you have treated prisoners in the jail. The last charge you will find by examining the report of the Grand Jurors, at the last February term of court. The first charge in case of Lavinia is, that after the order for his committal to jail, that you neglected to put him in jail, until you was requested by citizens of Ottawa to do so, and some signs of tar and feathering manifested.

We had also understood that when questioned why you dealt with Lavinia as you did, that you stated in effect, that you was in Lavinia's power, and that Lavinia could ruin you. We thought you would consider it a favor to have notice of the charges that you might be able to satisfy the public of the facts in the case.

Yours respectfully,

H. THORNTON,
J. H. KINYON,
J. JOHNSON,
R. K. SWIFT,
JAMES N. REEDER.

In relation to the charge of ill-treatment of prisoners, referred to in that letter, I call your attention to the following affidavit of Morris W. Martin, Deputy Sheriff, who was perfectly well acquainted with the manner in which said prisoners were treated.

State of Illinois, }
La Salle County, } SCT.

Morris W. Martin, first being sworn, deposes and says, that he was Deputy Sheriff of said county during the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and forty; that having personally attended to the prisoners confined in the Jail of said county, was well acquainted with the manner in which they were treated, during his time of service. And he further deposes and saith, that they were invariably furnished with good and wholesome provisions, such as were used in the Sheriff's family; and with one exception, the prisoners confined in said Jail, have spoken in terms of well treatment. And he further says, that Eli A. Butler, complaining of ill-treatment to the committee of Grand Jurors, was in all respects treated in the same manner as other prisoners; and after he (Butler) had complained to the Grand Jury, Samuel J. Parks, a prisoner during the time of Butler's confinement, stated to him, at the time of said confinement, and repeatedly since his (Parks) acquittal, that the provision and treatment while in Jail, was much better than he ever expected to receive in any Jail; and that he felt grateful to Mr. Reddick and his family, and would ever remember the kind treatment

he received at their hands. And he further says, that the said Butler, while confined in Jail, was unruly and abusive, and frequently was admonished of his conduct; that he was present in Court, at the February special term, when Benj. H. Mooers, Foreman of the Grand Jury made the report relative to the Jail, and the treatment of the prisoners; and said report having been read, His Honor Judge Ford, enquired of the Foreman if they had ascertained the truth of the statement of the prisoner; to which the Foreman replied, they had not; that it was only the statement of the prisoner, and it might go for what it was worth.

MORRIS W. MARTIN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1840.

J. CLOUD, Clerk.

Were I disposed I could easily multiply depositions, showing that the charge of misusing prisoners was a downright base fabrication; but I deem it unnecessary.

The Jail of this county, hardly worth the name it bears, is a disgrace to the county in which it is situated—term after term of the court has the Grand Jury condemned it in the most positive manner. While several persons are confined in it at the same time, it is utterly impossible to keep it in a condition that it might otherwise be, were it differently constructed.

Respecting the character of the said *Eli A. Butler*, I take this opportunity to state, that he was the most abandoned villain that I ever had under my charge. He was convicted at the February special term of court of stealing a horse from one of our farmers, and by me conveyed to the Penitentiary at Alton—he has since eluded the vigilance of his keepers, and made his escape, and undoubtedly, long ere this, has resumed his former calling. Knowing, as I did, the character of this individual, I kept a vigilant eye upon him; and for the reason, that I prevented his escape from custody, or in other words for having faithfully performed that duty, which my fellow citizens had confided in me, I am made the subject of personal abuse.

In relation to the charge of official neglect of duty, in the case of the People vs. Lavinia, I lay before you the following certificate of Thomas J. True, Esq., Coroner of La Salle county:

I hereby certify, that complaint having been made to Lewis W. Link, acting Justice of the Peace, in and for the county of La Salle, against Wm. T. S. Lavinia, charged with the offence of being accessory to an assault, with intent to kill and murder, upon the body of James Clark, a State's warrant was issued and placed in my hands to execute; by virtue of which I arrested said Lavinia, and held him in confinement; and that on the evening of the last day of the investigation, sufficient evidence having been adduced to, in my opinion, implicate the said Lavinia, upon the adjournment of the court, I requested the Sheriff to confine him in Jail, who upon my first request, personally conveyed the prisoner to the Jail, and in my presence locked him up.

T. J. TRUE,
Coroner of La Salle county.
Ottawa, July 23, 1840.

It will be perceived from Mr. True's statement, that Lavinia was arrested by him, as Coroner, to whom the writ was addressed and given, that he (True) held Lavinia in duresse, and when application was made by said True for the confinement of said Lavinia, I personally confined him in the Jail of said county, where the said Lavinia remained, until Dr. H. Hurlbut, his physician, requested his removal to some other part of the building, as will more fully appear from the Doctor's certificate.—

This is to certify that I, Harmon Hurlbut, Physician to Wm. T. S. Lavinia while being confined in the Jail of La Salle county, made application to the Sheriff of said county for his removal to one of the open rooms, believing as I did, that close confinement would endanger his life, and at my request, said Lavinia was removed to another apartment, better calculated for a person in his situation.

HARMON HURLBUT.
Ottawa, July 28, 1840.

As regards the charge, I was made to say "that I was in Lavinia's power," or in the power of any other person, I unqualifiedly pronounce it a BASE FALSEHOOD; and worthy only of the black heart of him who gave it utterance.

I regret being obliged thus to speak of any HUMAN BEING; but he, who would lend his influence to asperse the character of the man, who never injured him, deserves the mark of Cain, and the utter contempt of every honest citizen in the community.

A report having been put in circulation, that I am a defaulter to the county, I take

the present opportunity of pronouncing it FALSE, and challenge proof of the assertion. For proof of the situation in which I stand to the county, I refer you to the following certificate of Henry Green, Esq.

I, Henry Green, one of the Commissioners of La Salle county, do hereby certify, that William Reddick, Collector of La Salle county, appeared at the June term of the Commissioners Court, and stated to said Court, that he was prepared to make a settlement for the Taxes due the county and state, whereupon the Court made the following order:

"County Commissioners Court, June Term, 1840.

TUESDAY, June 2d, 1840.

Ordered, that William Reddick, Collector be allowed until the next regular term of this Court to make a final settlement for taxes by him collected, for the reason that the sale of lots and lands for taxes has not been completed."

I certify the above to be a true copy from the record. July 28th, 1840.

J. CLOUD, Clerk.

And I do further certify, that I have this day examined his account with said county, and find that he is perfectly able to settle the same at a moment's notice.

HENRY GREEN.

Ottawa, July 28th, 1840.

Fellow-Citizens! I have refuted one by one the foul and slanderous charges preferred against my official character, and I trust, should other charges of similar nature make their appearance, you will treat them in the manner they deserve.

I am not conscious, I have met the expectations of my friends in every respect, but this I do say, I have endeavored to discharge the duties of my office with impartiality and to the extent of my abilities.

Fellow-Citizens! if it should be your pleasure to re-elect me to the office of Sheriff, I have but to say to you, the duties of that situation shall be performed impartially, and I trust, to your satisfaction. I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WM. REDDICK.

Ottawa, July 28th, 1840.

For the Illinois Free Trader.

To the Electors of La Salle County.

A certain Circular having just made its appearance signed by William Reddick, the present Sheriff of the county of La Salle, in which certain reports are mentioned as having been circulated by "Emissaries," two of whom are said to be on an embassy from this town, traversing the county for the sole purpose of preventing the re-election of said Reddick; it becomes necessary for some of those who are opposed to his re-election to the office of Sheriff to explain, or rather unravel the mystery which hangs around some of the things which are presented to the public in the shape of facts in said circular.

With regard to the letter, dated Troy Grove, July 20th, 1840, addressed to said Reddick by sundry good citizens of that quarter, it is necessary to say a few words, not merely to the letter itself, but to the manner in which matters contained in that letter are passed over by the depositions of Morris W. Martin, deputy sheriff, and Thomas J. True, coroner.—The first deposition taken appears to be that of M. W. Martin, and is no doubt intended to clear up one of the reports which the said letter from Troy Grove mentions as having gone forth about the ill-treatment of prisoners confined in the County Jail, awaiting their trial. Mr. Martin in his deposition says that Samuel T. Parks, one of the prisoners confined in the county jail awaiting his trial at the last February term of the Circuit Court, repeatedly, both before and after his (Parks) acquittal, told him that during the term he was confined in said jail "that he received much better treatment than he ever expected to receive in any jail"—it is probable that the poor fellow when telling this to Martin, might have thought that the fact of his being a prisoner, any treatment was good enough;—and upon the liberation of said Parks, he, in the hearing of sundry citizens, declared, that the filth in the cell which was daily accruing and from which no pleasant odor could come, was not removed for several days at a time. He also declared that neither he or the other prisoner confined had a sufficiency of clothing to keep them warm, and also, that at times, they, meaning both of the prisoners confined, had not a sufficiency of food. These facts were stated in public by said Parks, after his liberation, and if affidavits to the same were necessary, they could be easily produced from more than one in whose hearing Parks stated the above. It is unnecessary to say more on this subject, other

than to produce from the records of the county, the following document, a part of which at least will refer to the case in question. The public can read for themselves,—it is not a garbled, or far fetched statement, but a plain exposition of facts:

"To the Hon. Thos. Ford, Judge of the Circuit Court, held in the county of La Salle and state of Illinois, February term, A. D. 1840.

The Grand Jurors, empanelled and sworn upon their oaths present, That part of the jail of said county, in which prisoners are confined, to be an unfit place to incarcerate any human being. The cell in which the Grand Jury found the two prisoners, now awaiting their trial, is a cold, dark and dismal looking den, THE FLOOR OF WHICH IS COVERED WITH FILTH, AND THE PERSONS OF SAID PRISONERS INFESTED WITH VERMIN. On making enquiry of the prisoners aforesaid relative to the manner in which they were treated by the Jailor; their reply was, "THAT NOW THEY FARED TOLERABLY WELL, BUT AT SUNDRY TIMES SINCE THEIR CONFINEMENT THEY HAD BEEN STINTED IN THEIR FOOD," and that during the recent severe cold weather, they had hard work to keep from freezing to death, being deprived the enjoyment OF A FIRE, and the comforts of warm clothing, thereby endangering their lives, and rendering their confinement doubly miserable."

Signed

BENJ. H. MOOERS,

Foreman and others on said Jury.

In the above document, the two prisoners are mentioned, and the purport is that both fared alike, there is certainly some ambiguity about the affidavit of Mr. Martin in reference to what the foreman of the Grand Jury told his honor Judge Ford, the affidavit of Mr. Martin speaks of a prisoner—the report of the Grand Jury speaks of the prisoners, meaning all who were confined.

Charge the second in said letter, which the deposition of Thomas J. True is intended to cover, requires some looking over. The name of Thomas J. True is used to a deposition taken, it appears in like manner with the others presented, but which for some cause or other is not sworn to. The public can read the said deposition for themselves, and the remarks which follow in Mr. Reddick's circular, and we ask them, and especially those resident in the town of Ottawa, who were personally knowing to the arrest of Lavinia, and the excitement which prevailed amongst the citizens, when it was known that said Lavinia was at large, and not confined along with his accomplices. We suppose Mr. Reddick yet remembers the excitement which pervaded the community on the night that sundry citizens hinted that it was his (Reddick's) duty to lock up Lavinia in safe-keeping. The circular of Mr. Reddick states that the writ which was given Mr. True for the arrest of Lavinia, was directed to him as Coroner, and that consequently said Lavinia was held in duresse by said True, and the said Reddick had nothing to do with the confining of Lavinia until he was delivered over to him by said True. Does Mr. Reddick, or the writer of his circular suppose that the people of this county know not the position of this matter? Did not Mr. True, in the capacity of Constable, arrest Lavinia? We know that Mr. True is the Coroner of the county, and we know that he is Constable too. The subterfuge resorted to in using the word Coroner will not do; it is well known that when a Constable arrests a prisoner, and delivers him up, that he is in the charge of the Sheriff or his deputy, and that the public look to the Sheriff alone for his safe-keeping.

With respect to Mr. Reddick being in the power of Lavinia, &c., we say nothing, not having heard such a remark, until the same appeared in print in said circular; but we know that when a certain letter was produced in court, during its last session, that Mr. Reddick testified under oath, that he believed the same was not written by W. T. S. Lavinia.

The report about being a defaulter, must have been made by Reddick himself.—His disturbed imagination must have produced this—at any rate it was not affixed previous to its being given in his own circular.

But now let us refer to some few of the reasons which we set forth and substantiate, to show that the charge of official neglect of duty is not to be passed over, and we think that on the day of the election, the good citizens of this county will bear them in mind when casting their votes for an officer who should discharge his duties in the most exact manner.—Read the following:

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
La Salle county, } SCT.

I, Benjamin B. Reynolds, of the county and state aforesaid, do certify, that

William Reddick, Sheriff of said county, had placed in his hands on or about the 12th day of October, A. D. 1838, a certain execution against Crook and Campbell of said county, amounting to some 440 dollars, that said Reddick collected said money, and loaned the same to William E. and Geo. W. Armstrong at 12 per cent interest; that said Reddick showed to me the notes which were given for the said money, and informed me it was the same which was obtained from said Crook & Campbell under said execution. The records of the county will show, that said Reddick did not pay over to the proper officer the amount of said execution, until long after the proper time for so doing. BENJ. B. REYNOLDS, Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 29th day of July, 1840.

JABEZ FITCH, J. P.

Also, by reference to the books in the Clerk's office, we find the following Executions which were put into the hands of Mr. Reddick, to wit:

"Fine assessed against Wm. E. Armstrong versus the people \$3 and costs. Execution issued July 30th, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Wm. E. Armstrong of \$50. Execution issued on the 31st of July, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Jas. Mahoney \$3. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against J. Mahoney \$25. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against J. Mahoney \$25. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Mary Manard \$25. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Wm. Mostin \$25. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Patrick Feeley \$26. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

"Fine assessed against Frank Farrell \$25. Execution issued Nov. 22, 1839."

These Executions have never been returned, which the books in the Clerk's office will show, for what reason we cannot say, other than this, the day of election was approaching, and like a good, true and efficient officer, caring for nothing but the securing of his re-election. The Sheriff may have thought it was not necessary to be too rigid. The law allows 90 days for the return of an execution, and if the same is not returned by that time, it is considered virtually dead. We present these documents to show some of the favors given to some individuals, who are using all their influence, and exerting themselves to procure the re-election of Mr. Reddick.

It is well known that the opponents of Mr. Reddick have been stumped to produce any document tending to impeach his official standing, and since that course has been resorted to, this paper is written and subscribed by MANY CITIZENS, among whom are the
"TWO EMISSARIES."
OTTAWA, July 29, 1840.

The same subject continued in the inside form.

LITERARY MISCELLANY.

From the Sandy Hill Herald.
TO "ION," GREETING, I SEND THIS
H Y M N.

Creation's works, great God, are thine,
The dark, deep, boundless sea,
The corals in its waves that shine,
The fish that sport through flashing brine,
The green weeds that in clusters twine,
Belong alone to Thee!

Thine too the sky, so fair and bright,
The winds that fan it, free;
The stars that gild its vault at night,
The gentle moon with her mellow light,
That comes to gladden the weary sight,
Belong alone to Thee!

The Earth, the Earth, so fresh and fair,
So beautiful to me!
Its mountains towering 'mid the air,
Its sparkling mines of diamonds rare,
Its silver streams and deserts bare,
Belong alone to Thee!

The whole, the whole, the wondrous whole,
That is or e'er shall be!
All height and depth, from pole to pole,
The lifeless dust and human soul,
The various systems as they roll,
Belong alone to Thee!

To Thee! to Thee! we raise the song,
We raise the hymn to Thee!
The winds shall wait its song along,
And bird and beast the strains prolong,
For unto Thee they all belong,
Belong alone to Thee!
Fort Ann, July, 1840. C. D. STUART.

DIVINE LOVE.

What is more tender than a mother's love
To the sweet infant fondling in her arms?
What arguments need her compassion move
To hear its cries, and help it in its harms?
Now if the tenderest mother were possessed
Of all the love, within her single breast,
Of all the mothers since the world began,
'Tis nothing to the love of God for man.
Hymn.

Progress—A Thought.

Onward is the order of nature! It is written on the streams as they flow, and the planets as they roll! Onward is the order of intelligence. What was man—what is he?

He stood upon the beautiful earth a savage. The mighty energies and attributes of his spiritual nature were enclosed within him, for time had not unlocked the casket. The perception of his senses were his guides of thought. The howl of the wind through the branches of the forest, had to him a prophetic meaning, for he could not trace the sound—a mysterious agency; and in the quivering of the leaves, he recognized the finger of a God! The blue concave above him was a mighty and solid arch; and he saw the light and felt the heat of the great ball of fire that came up on the one side, and went down on the other, and there he worshipped! There was a spirit in the consuming fire that burned upon his hearth stone. The thunder came; and the thunder was the rolling of the chariot wheels of offended deities, and the lightning the dreadful weapon of their wrath, and he knelt before the altars he had reared to the invisible Gods beyond the wonderful arch that spanned his sight. He stood by the outstretching waters, and it was the might of dread and adorable spirits that lifted the huge waves, till their white capped crests seemed to dash against the sky, while the twinkling stars were the lamps of heaven!

What is man! A portion of time has mingled with eternity, and the casket is unlocked. Man rides upon the wings of the wind, and it is his minister. He hears it howl, and sees the quivering of the leaves, and smiles unmoved at his triumph. Like a scroll hath he rolled back that blue concave, and surveyed, with mutual vision, the far reaches of infinity. He hath measured the light and the heat, and he telleth of that great ball of fire, whence it cometh, and whither it goeth on its majestic round. The consuming fire obeyeth his commander, and there is to him a pleasure in the voice of the thunder, and the flash of the lightning, for he knoweth them. He careereth on the roaring waves and those twinkling stars are indeed, the lamps of Heaven; for they are like that great ball of fire though far—far removed, and light the Universe!—Harington.

A Cape Cod Boy.

In Rev. Dr. Palfrey's Barnstable Centennial Discourse, we find the following spirited and accurate sketch of a Barnstable boy:

"The duck does not take to the water with a surer instinct than the Barnstable boy. He leaps from his leading-strings into the shrouds. It is but a bound from the mother's lap to the mast-head. He boxes the compass in his infant soliloquies. He can land, reef, and steer, by the time he flies a kite.—The ambition of this youth is 'to watch the world with noble seamanship'; and his manly 'march' is on the mountain wave, his home—no, no! I am too fast—his home is not upon the deep; and in his widest wanderings, he never forgets that it is not. His home stands on firm land, nestled among some light houses, which, in the blackest midnight of a polar winter, his mind's-eye sees, casting their serene radiance on the wide waters, to guide him back to the goal as it was the starting-place of his life's varied voyage. While he keeps the long night-watches, under the cross of the southern hemisphere, his spirit is travelling half around the globe to look in at the fireside, where, the household duties of the day gone through, the mother, or the sister, or the wife, or the dear friend that is not wife, but shall be, is musing on her absent sailor. The gales of Cape Horn, or the monsoons of the India sea, are piping in his cordage; but clearer, and through and above all their roar, his ear is drinking in the low, sweet voice, that is lulling here his infant's distant slumber. And whether his eyes, with the conscience pride of art, the 'thing of life' he is managing, as, all tight and trim, her upper rigging sent down, she leaps free and surefooted, poised by a scant edge of main-top-sail, from peak to peak of the now-rising, now-subsiding watery Alps—while his hoarse voice, amid the mad uproar of the elements guides her fierce way, as if by magic—or whether, on the quiet Sabbath, in the gayish sun-set, or beneath the broad enveloping moonlight, his beautiful vessel skims under the line, over the level floor of ocean, with all her snowy t'gging (I should say her bravery) set, as gentle and noiseless as a flock of white doves—still, still, loved spot of his nativity.

Where'er he roams, whatever realm he sees,
His heart, untamed, fondly turns to thee."

Enjoyment of the Season.

Sleeping with the window open to become cool, and waking up with the shutters closed.